



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

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## MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System August 2006 Newsletter

# Welcome Back

### 2006-2007 MontCAS Testing Windows

September 11-19, 2006	CRT Modified Pilot, Grade 5, Math
February 13 – March 29, 2007	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math (MontCAS, Phase 2)
March 6 – March 29, 2007	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math (MontCAS, Phase 2)
March 22 – April 12, 2007	NRT, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science (MontCAS, Phase 1)
January 22-March 2, 2007	NAEP, Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math. Details on page 8.

### Testing Contractor Contact Information

#### MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests

Meredith Durgin, Montana Program Manager  
[meredith\\_durgin@hmco.com](mailto:meredith_durgin@hmco.com) or 800-767-8420 x6094

Carol Taylor Cann, Montana Assessment Consultant  
[carol\\_taylor\\_cann@hmco.com](mailto:carol_taylor_cann@hmco.com) or 800-767-8420 x7113

#### MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT and the CRT-Alternate

Sharon Houle, Montana CRT Program Manager  
[shoule@measuredprogress.org](mailto:shoule@measuredprogress.org) or 800-431-8901 x2186

Nancy Hall, Montana CRT Program Assistant  
[nhall@measuredprogress.org](mailto:nhall@measuredprogress.org) or 888-792-2741

Jake Goldsmith, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager  
[JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org](mailto:JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org) or 800-431-8901 x2239

## MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT-Modified Pilot

Ginger Mathews, Measured Progress CRT-Modified Program Manager  
800-431-8901, Extension 2137 or [gmathews@measuredprogress.org](mailto:gmathews@measuredprogress.org)  
Measured Progress Montana CRT Pilot Helpdesk  
888 792-2741

## Current System Test Coordinator Information Needed

Thank you for providing information to the Office of Public Instruction about contact information for system test coordinators. Please continue to send changes to Judy Snow ([jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov) or 406-444-3656) as they occur. The following contact information is needed: name, title, mailing address, shipping address, phone number, and email address. Current contact information makes it possible for the Office of Public Instruction to directly contact test coordinators with important and timely information.



## Save the Dates

For the Spring 2007 **OPI Statewide Assessment Conference**  
Tentative Dates: April 30 – May 1, 2007

## Please Welcome Sandy McIntyre

OPI Assessment Assistant  
[smcintyre@mt.gov](mailto:smcintyre@mt.gov) or 406-444-4431

## MontCAS Phase 1

### Spring 2006 NRT Results

- Results of the Iowa Tests (MontCAS, Phase 1) were mailed by Riverside Publishing Company to districts in May and June. Included with the results was the *2006 Interpretive Guide*. That *Guide* and a PowerPoint presentation, *Reading the Reports*, are online:
  - Interpretive Guide  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/06InterpGuide.pdf>
  - PowerPoint  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/06TCTraining.pdf>
- In July, a report on preliminary statewide aggregated results was presented to the Board of Public Education. That report is online:  
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/Results/06PrelimAggre.pdf>
- The window for districts and schools to review their disaggregated results on a secure site closed on August 4, 2006.
- On November 2-3, 2006, the statewide disaggregated results will be presented to the Board of Public Education, and Reportable data will be posted online on the public site:  
[http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/Report\\_Index.asp?Category=Assessment](http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/Report_Index.asp?Category=Assessment)

## MontCAS Phase 2

# Thank You

Many thanks to Montana educators for investing part of their summers working on CRT and CRT-Alternate test development activities. Over 300 Montana educators shared their time and professional expertise participating in workshops in June and July of 2006.

These activities included standard setting for grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate; content and bias reviews for grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math; and preliminary content and bias reviews for grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science.

And, there will be future development opportunities. We encourage educators who were unable to participate in summer 2006 activities to complete an online application form so that we will be able to include you in the future.

The online form will require summer and school addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Please look for the form and web address in the September 2006 *JUMP*.

### Spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate Results

The results of the spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate assessment will be shipped by Measured Progress in September. Included in the shipment are the following:

- *2006 Interpretive Guide*
- CD: *2006 Reading the Reports for the CRT and CRT-Alternate*
- *iAnalyze Guide*
- The reports are listed and described in the following table.

Report	Description
Student Report	Parent-guardian report that provides each student's scores for the reading and mathematics tests.
Cumulative Folder Label	Label that provides each student's scores for the reading and mathematics tests.
Preliminary CRT Roster and Item-Level Report	Provides information about class performance. Each student in the class is listed on the roster which includes references to each item and standard it measures.
Preliminary School Summary Report	Three part summary shows distribution of scores in each Montana performance level by subgroup, school, system, and state.
Preliminary System Summary Report	Three part summary shows distribution of scores in each Montana performance level by subgroup, system, and state.
Student-level data files by system	Excel file on a CD

The paper copies of the roster/item, school summary and system summary reports are preliminary. The final copies of those reports will be posted on *iAnalyze* on October 3, 2006.

**Important**

- During April, May, and June, OPI and Measured Progress provided extensive opportunities for systems and schools to verify demographic and enrollment data; however, in some cases, school codes were unrecognizable or incorrect.
- OPI and Measured Progress were able to reconcile many of these; however, should systems or schools discover a discrepancy related to system and school codes, please contact Judy Snow, September 18 – 26: [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov) or 406-444-3656.
- Because the window for resolving demographic discrepancies expired in June, discrepancies regarding demographic data will not be considered.
- Final reports will be posted on the *iAnalyze* site. These final reports will be for all systems and schools and will reflect final state, system, and school data. At that time all printed preliminary reports will be outdated. In the future, roster/item, school summary and system summary reports will be posted directly online on a secure site and not provided in paper format.
- Below is a calendar for results.

September 8, 2006	Measured Progress will ship results.
September 15, 2006	Systems will receive results.
September 18-26, 2006	Window for reporting system or school code discrepancies to OPI. Please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 OR <a href="mailto:jsnow@mt.gov">jsnow@mt.gov</a>
October 3, 2006	Final summary reports will be posted on <i>iAnalyze</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The web address is:</li> <li>• <a href="http://iservices.measuredprogress.org">http://iservices.measuredprogress.org</a></li> <li>• Please locate your password ahead of time. If you cannot locate it, please contact Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 or <a href="mailto:jsnow@mt.gov">jsnow@mt.gov</a>. Your <i>iAnalyze</i> site is secure. The passwords also need to remain secure.</li> <li>• For help using <i>iAnalyze</i>, email the Measured Progress Help Desk: <a href="mailto:ianalyzehelp@measuredprogress.org">ianalyzehelp@measuredprogress.org</a></li> </ul>
October 2006	Released Items for all grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Mathematics will be placed online. Notification will follow.



### Modified CRT

In the Spring of 2006, the Office of Public Instruction was awarded a grant to evaluate the feasibility of using a modified version of the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). The purpose of a modified version of the CRT is to expand the options to assess the performance of students with disabilities.

The performance of students with disabilities who took the regular grade 4 CRT in the spring of 2006 will be compared with their performance on a modified version of the test that they will take as grade 5 students in September of 2006.

**The dates for the preparation and pilot of the modified version of the CRT are:**

Week of May 22, 2006	Test coordinators received a memo with detailed information. The memo was mailed by Measured Progress.
September 1-6, 2006	System Test Coordinators will receive testing materials from Measured Progress.
September 11 – 19, 2006	Testing Window for the pilot of the modified version of the CRT for grade 5 students.
September 25, 2006	Deadline for materials to be returned to Measured Progress.

**Below is contact information for questions about the CRT-Modified.**

- For information about program administration issues:
  - Ginger Mathews, Measured Progress CRT-Modified Program Manager  
800-431-8901, Extension 2137 or [gmathews@measuredprogress.org](mailto:gmathews@measuredprogress.org)
  - Measured Progress Montana CRT Pilot Helpdesk  
888 792-2741
- For information about accommodations:
  - Gail McGregor, University of Montana  
(406) 243-2348 or [mcmgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu](mailto:mcmgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu)
- For information about program policy issues, student participation, test security:
  - Judy Snow, State Assessment Director  
406-444-3656 or [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov)

***iAnalyze* and Released Item Training Opportunities**

In October 2006, released items from the spring 2006 CRT and CRT-Alternate will be online. In addition, 2006 data will be included on *iAnalyze*.

The Office of Public Instruction will offer training on the use of the released items and *iAnalyze*. If your system is interested in hosting training in November, December, or January, please contact Sandy McIntyre, 406-444-4431, [smcintyre@mt.gov](mailto:smcintyre@mt.gov).

Hosting involves providing space for educators in your system and educators from others in the region.



## Other Assessment News

### Coach's Corner: Test Results

Test results for both MontCAS Phase 1 (NRT—Iowa Tests) and Phase 2 (CRT) are posted online. Currently, test results from 2004-2005 and prior years are available on the OPI web site.



The following directions and guidelines are some of the ways you can find the test results on the OPI web site. You can see spreadsheet views for either the NRT or CRT assessments, view bar graphs of the CRT score summaries, and/or access NRT reports submitted to the Board of Public Education.

- ✚ To find the spreadsheets, go to the [Assessment-MontCAS](#) web page and choose Test Results. This takes you to the IRIS Reports page. You can also access the IRIS Reports page from the OPI home page at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov) by choosing IRIS from the menu bar across the top of the page. Once at the IRIS page, press the View Reports button on the right side of the page. You do not have to log in to select the View Reports button.

Once you get to the IRIS Reports page, click on Assessment (NRT/CRT) on the left side of the page to expand the menu. The Secure Search choices require a username and password; these options are used by schools to verify data before it is posted publicly. Choose the Simple Search option for either NRT or CRT.

A screenshot of the IRIS Reports web application. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Assessment (NRT/CRT)' expanded, showing options like 'CRT Secure Search', 'CRT Simple Search', 'Glossary', 'NRT Detailed Search', 'NRT Secure Data', and 'NRT Simple Search'. The main area is titled 'Report Name: Assessment (NRT/CRT) - NRT Simple Search'. It contains a 'Show tabular report' button circled in red. Below this are several dropdown menus for search criteria: Year (2004-2005), County (Big Horn), System (List All Systems Separately), District (List All Districts Separately), School (Combine All Schools), Size (Combine All Size Categories), Disaggregation (All Students Combined (No Disaggregation)), Subject (List All Subjects Separately), Grade (List All Grades Separately), and Test (List All Assessments Separately). A red arrow points from the 'Show tabular report' button to the 'Test' dropdown menu. A red arrow also points from the 'Assessment (NRT/CRT)' menu item to the search area.

Customize your report by choosing from the dropdown lists and then clicking on the Show tabular report button.

Index		Report Name: Assessment (NRT/CRT) - CRT Simple Search									
Display Options		Simple search of CRT assessment information. To protect privacy, no results will be reported where the count of test takers is less than 10. For detailed descriptions of fields, please click on Glossary.									
Results 1 to 50 of 488    Page Selector: [1] 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment (NRT/CRT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRT Secure Search</li> <li>CRT Simple Search</li> <li>Glossary</li> <li>NRT Detailed Search</li> <li>NRT Secure Data</li> <li>NRT Simple Search</li> </ul> </li> <li>School Directory</li> <li>Usage Reports</li> </ul>		School Year	Test	Name	Type	Grade	Subject	Disaggregation	Percent Novice	Percent Nearning Proficient	Percent Proficient
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	All Students Combined	48%	32%	17%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	American Indian/Alaskan Native	57%	33%	8%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	English Proficient	36%	34%	24%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Female	48%	34%	16%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Hispanic or Latino	33%	47%	20%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Limited English Proficient	65%	29%	6%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Male	48%	30%	17%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Not Migrant	48%	32%	17%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Not Participating in Free/Reduced Meals	37%	31%	26%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Not Special Ed Eligible	46%	32%	18%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Participating in Free/Reduced Meals	55%	32%	11%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	Special Ed Eligible	61%	30%	9%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Math	White, Non-Hispanic	23%	25%	40%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	All Students Combined	47%	21%	23%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	American Indian/Alaskan Native	57%	22%	17%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	English Proficient	32%	21%	33%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Female	42%	19%	27%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Hispanic or Latino	53%	20%	20%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Limited English Proficient	69%	21%	9%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Male	52%	22%	20%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Not Migrant	47%	21%	23%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Not Participating in Free/Reduced Meals	38%	18%	30%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Not Special Ed Eligible	44%	22%	24%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Participating in Free/Reduced Meals	53%	23%	19%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	Special Ed Eligible	75%	13%	13%
		2005	Regular	Big Horn	County	ALL	Reading	White, Non-Hispanic	19%	16%	41%


Depending on the choices you made, your report may be more than one page long; use the page selector to move to the next page. Use the scroll bars at the bottom and right side of the screen to view all the columns. Click on any column heading to sort the data by that column. The sorted column heading will appear in red.

You can save this report as an Excel spreadsheet for further sorting and analysis. Click on the [Create Excel](#) button at the bottom of any page. Choose [Save](#) and designate a location for the spreadsheet. Use the default name or create your own; the default name includes today's date.

Bar graphs of CRT data are available from the Academic Indicator Report on the NCLB Report Card. To view these, open the OPI home page at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov), and select [NCLB Report Card](#) from the grey menu bar. You may need to install the Adobe SVG viewer to read reports. Follow the instructions in the gray box on the left side of the Report Card page. The download should only take a couple of minutes, depending on your internet connection.

You will need an SVG viewer to read reports

- Click the following button to begin installing the Adobe SVG Viewer.



Download SVG Viewer

- Scroll down to locate the appropriate installer for your computer (Windows 98-XP use vs. 82)
- Double-click the downloaded installer.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.
- When prompted, choose 'Run this program from its current location.' or 'Open'
- Once the viewer installation is complete, click the back button of your browser to continue.
- Click [here to test your plugin](#)

Note: If you're currently running Netscape, you must re-start it before you can use it to view pages containing SVG.

Indicators required by the new federal education law. Its simple format allows you to generate custom reports for specific schools and districts as well as on a statewide basis.

Information is provided on student academic performance for math and reading tests, the "adequate yearly progress" status, and highly qualified teachers for all of Montana's schools and districts.

Please select a report from any of the pop-up menus below:

Report Type:

Report Level:

District:

School:

Year:

Grade:

(Only applies to the "Academic Indicator by Grade & Subject" report)

(Report will open in a new window)

To view test results, choose *Academic Indicator by Grade & Subject* from the Report Type list. You can view data for the whole state, or by a specific district or school. Select a year and which grade or grades you would like to view. Click the [Create Report](#) button. The report opens in a new window; close it to return to this page and modify your selections.



- ✚ NRT reports submitted to the Board of Public Education. OPI reports aggregated NRT test results to the Board of Public Education at its July meeting and disaggregated results at a fall meeting. Those reports are on the MontCAS web site <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/Phase1.html#TA>

## **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

**Welcome to Mike Chapman**, the new Montana NAEP coordinator. Formerly a data analyst for OPI, Mike will coordinate all NAEP activities.

Between January 22 and March 2, 2007 Montana students will participate in NAEP assessments in grades 4, 8, and 12 in reading, mathematics and writing. Students are asked to participate in only one subject.

Selected schools were notified in June 2006. Each school will identify a contact person to supply an electronic list of students and assist with some logistics. NAEP field staff will conduct the assessment and provide materials.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, states receiving Title I funds must participate in the NAEP Assessment in grades four and eight in Reading and Mathematics.

### **Important dates and information**

- Electronic filing of student lists: October 1 - November 17, 2006 (deadline)
- Testing window: January 22 - March 2, 2007
- Administered by NAEP Field Staff in a single testing session (90 minutes)

For more information, visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> or contact Mike Chapman, Office of Public Instruction, at 406-444-3450, [mchapman@mt.gov](mailto:mchapman@mt.gov)



**Contact Information**  
Office of Public Instruction  
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director  
406-444-3656 [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov)